

ANZBIG Newsletter

Global leaders in the sustainable production and use of biochar

CEO MESSAGE

Dear Members,

This is our November and December and last newsletter for the 2025 year.

The most important news is that a new CEO Patrick Hastings, has been appointed and he will begin in his role on December the 15th. We are looking forward to Patrick coming on Board and leading us into 2026 with a range of programs and initiatives.

You can find out a little bit more about Patrick further in the newsletter.

This week ANZBIG lodged its submission for the (Australian Carbon Credits Units)ACCU review. The key points in our submission were

- Outlined the importance of ACCU approval for Biochar to the Biochar industry and the flow on benefits to the Australian economy as well as the significant contribution that Biochar can make to the reduction in Australia's GHG emissions.
- The ACCU approval process required more resources to expedite ACCU methodology approvals.
- Proposed a Government funded joint cooperative working group between ANZBIG and Government to assist development and approval of the Biochar ACCU method.
- Proposed a fast track process for Biochar ACCU approval using international standards and protocols that have already been developed.
- Suggested that ACCU's should recognise and price methods with a longer and more reliable permanence (eg Biochar) at a premium.

Development of an Australian Standard for Biochar has continued with ANZBIG and Standards Australia. Very special thank you to ANZBIG's technical lead. Professor Stephen Joseph and Craig Bagnall for their time and energy.

I remind all members that with the transition to the new membership system members must log in to the website when they get their membership renewal and enter their credit card details to pay or pay by bank transfer.

Membership fees are the life blood for us to advocate and promote the industry for our members. Please renew promptly.

This will be my last newsletter as interim CEO. Thanks to Shaun Scallan and Sam Zagami for their support and work and the ANZBIG Board for their support.

Wishing you and your families and joyous Christmas and Happy New Year.

Warm Regards
Phillip Henshall
Interim CEO

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w: www.anzbig.org
326 Main Street
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Director Spotlight

Welcome New & Renewing Members

Diamond



Amorphous



[CBMR Pty Ltd](#)

Carbon



[Charcoal Australia P/L](#)

Associate

[Michael Walker](#)

[Jan Hamilton](#)

[Dennis Bewsher](#)

Student

[Tom Bessell](#)

Become an ANZBIG Member

[Join Now](#)

Michael Walker

FIML, FGIA, MAICD, MBA
Managing Director, Mikkat Management P/L
CEO, Soil Science Australia
ANZBIG Board Member



ANZBIG is pleased to welcome Michael Walker to the Board of Directors — a strategic appointment that strengthens our capacity to advance biochar across Australia and New Zealand.

Michael brings a distinguished career spanning senior management roles across both private and not-for-profit organisations. Known for his commitment to innovation, ethical leadership, and transformative outcomes, Michael has built a reputation as a highly effective NFP specialist with deep experience in forging strategic industry alliances and national networks.

Michael brings valuable hands-on environmental project experience, having overseen the regeneration and revegetation of a peat resource back to natural wetlands under an environmental charter — a project that showcased his flexible project management skills and commitment to restoring ecological integrity.

In addition to his leadership at Soil Science Australia as CEO, Michael joins ANZBIG as a Director to elevate the role of biochar within the National Soil Strategy, support the implementation of the Biochar Roadmap, and help build sustainable revenue pathways for ANZBIG and the broader industry.

We are also pleased to recognise Michael's independent consulting work through Mikkat Management Pty Ltd consulting, where he supports organisations with strategic leadership, governance, and operational transformation. This presents an excellent opportunity to highlight the breadth of experience he brings to the ANZBIG Board. <https://mikkat.com.au/>

ANZBIG is delighted to welcome Michael's expertise, insight, and strategic vision as we move into our next chapter of growth and impact.

ANZBIG News & Events

AGM Report

On Friday 5th December ANZBIG held its Annual General Meeting online.

Over twenty members attended.

The financial accounts for the year ended 30th June 2025 were presented by the Treasurer Phillip Henshall. The key points were:

- ANZ Biochar Inc traded for 2 months July to August 2024
- ANZ Biochar Ltd traded for 10 months September 2024 to June 2025
- Combined Loss for FY 24/25 Year was \$19,091 (Surplus \$ 42,260 FY23/24)
- Key difference was Donations FY 24/25 \$ 51,017 (\$ 139,317 FY23/24)
- Conference in June 2025 was successful and generated a surplus of \$ 28,564
- Net Assets at June 30th was \$ 65,240

ANZBIG Activities 2025

The Chair Melissa Rebbeck presented a brief review of the year. She highlighted several key areas

- Structure/Governance
- Extremely experienced board of 10 and advisory board of 5 plus volunteers.
- Registering DGR status and Biochar Foundation
- Successful CEO recruitment
- Planning days

Standards

- Australian Standards to develop an Australian standard on biochar based on ANZBIG's code of practice
- Policy and Advocacy Highlights
- Acceptance by NGER of method for carbonisation facilities as a first step to ACCU recognition
- Decoupling resource recovery and energy policy paper
- QLD end of waste code
- SA Waste Strategy
- NZ Carbon Removal Policy
- ERF Soils submission method
- Aust Govt Productivity Commission – Biochar opportunities in the circular economy
- Parliamentary Friends of Soils Canberra, planting the seeds with ministers

Communications/Marketing

- Successful Convention at the Gold Coast with over 160 attendees
- 7 webinars/podcasts covering carbon removal, fruit and veg, enabling the regulatory framework, composts, water, turf.
- 1 workshop in Newcastle
- 80 plus linked in posts and social media articles, monthly newsletters
- Attendance and presentations at conferences, Waste Expo, AORA, Carbon Farming, Hunter Innovation Festival, Hort, Evoke Ag and more

AGM Report Continued...

What's next

- Policy influence – biochar and pyrolysis Incentivize and finance biochar-bioenergy
- Growth, internal funding business plan update
- Resourcing of the Roadmap and ANZBIG to supercharge industry development
- ACCU and standards over the line
- Commercial scale demonstrations of biochar production and use across Australia
- Membership value, support and engagement plan
- Projects and Grants
- Rolling regional events
- DGR finalization and philanthropic engagement

Constitution Change

The resolution to change the constitution was approved unanimously.

The changes to the election of Directors allow more flexibility in electing the Directors rather than being bound by one Director from each state. The term of election of Directors was increased from 1 year to 2 years to enable Directors to contribute more as the initial 6 months is often spent understanding the organisation and Board role.

Karen Enkelaar stepped down as a Director.

An a new Director Michael Walker has joined the Board.

The Chair thanked Karen for her work on the Board and thanked all the other Directors for their support during the year.



Introducing Patrick Hastings as ANZBIG's New Chief Executive Officer

The Australian and New Zealand Biochar Industry Group (ANZBIG) is delighted to announce the appointment of Patrick Hastings as our new Chief Executive Officer.

Patrick joins ANZBIG with more than 15 years' experience leading peak bodies, sustainability organisations, and complex multi-stakeholder coalitions across Australia and New Zealand. His career spans senior executive roles in infrastructure, heavy industry, circular economy initiatives, ESG frameworks, and government engagement — experience that positions him strongly to lead ANZBIG into its next phase of growth and sector leadership.

As Acting CEO and Chief Impact Officer at the Infrastructure Sustainability Council (ISC), Patrick oversaw a period of unprecedented expansion: increasing projects under rating from 89 to 430, growing revenue by 340%, delivering the organisation's largest operating surplus, and securing more than \$2 million in grant funding to support innovation and new services. He led multi-jurisdictional advocacy across Australian states, the Federal Government, and New Zealand Central Government, embedding sustainability and assurance frameworks into national infrastructure policy. His ability to build coalitions is demonstrated through co-founding the Infrastructure Net Zero Collaborative — uniting government, industry and finance under a shared climate ambition.

Patrick also brings deep experience leading small, high-impact teams — including as CEO of the Gladstone Industry Leadership Group, where he restructured governance, increased income by 120%, and improved regional industry–community trust by 20%. Across his roles, he has demonstrated the ability to strengthen member value, secure resources, and deliver influence well beyond organisational size.

Patrick's background in circular economy, carbon markets, waste-to-value innovation and regenerative policy frameworks will directly support ANZBIG's work in establishing standards, advancing the ACCU biochar method, shaping emerging regulations, and accelerating the uptake of biochar across agriculture, industry, carbon removal, and the broader sustainability ecosystem. He has published on circular economy transitions, chaired technical standards panels, and worked alongside leading scientific and policy institutions — experience that strengthens ANZBIG's role as the peak body for biochar in the region.

In accepting the role, Patrick expressed his enthusiasm for the opportunity ahead: "Biochar is one of the most exciting climate-positive industries of this decade — linking carbon removal, soil health, renewable energy, and circular carbon solutions. I am honoured to lead ANZBIG at a time when the region has both the resources and the momentum to become a global leader in sustainable biochar production and use. I look forward to working closely with our members, partners, researchers and governments to scale this industry and unlock its full potential."

The ANZBIG Board welcomes Patrick's appointment and looks forward to working with him as we continue to strengthen advocacy, grow member value, and advance the industry's strategic priorities across Australia and New Zealand.



National Carbon Farming Conference

Alongside a busy ANZBIG expo stand, our Chair Melissa Rebbeck delivered a well-received presentation on how biochar production can both remove carbon dioxide and avoid emissions, while biochar use in agriculture can build soil carbon and reduce methane and nitrous oxide emissions.

Tim Charlton, Chair of the ANZBIG Education and Communications Working Group, was also on hand to field a high volume of enquiries about the role of biochar in agricultural carbon systems and production benefits.

It was encouraging to see soil scientists and agronomists highlighting the role of mineral-organic aggregates in building soil organic carbon. Susan Orgill from Impact Ag Australia spoke to the importance of mineral-organic aggregates in stabilising soil organic carbon.

- Increase soil organic carbon

Weng Z et al. 2017. Nature Climate Change 7: 371. doi:10.1038/NCLIMATE3276

- Increase soil inorganic carbon

Wang Y et al. 2023. Environmental Science & Technology 57: 1837. <https://lnkd.in/gJRW79C>

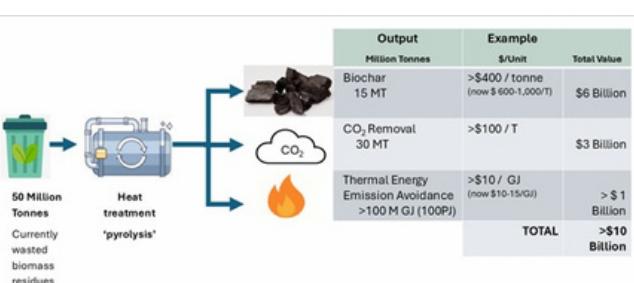
- Improve drought resilience of soils, crops and pastures

Joseph S et al. GCB Bioenergy 13: 1731. DOI: 10.1111/gcbb.12885

- Serve as a durable, certifiable CDR pathway, with mean residence times exceeding 1,000 years

Schmidt H et al. 2025. GCB Bioenergy 17(12). doi.org/10.1111/gcbb.70092

A concise and practical guide to biochar principles and practice can be found in the published “A Farmer’s Guide to the Production, Use and Application of Biochar” by Prof Stephen Joseph and Dr Paul Taylor — available anzbig.org



Biochar for Net Zero and a Stronger Economy

ANZBIG have developed this graphic to continue to advocate for the potential of the Australia & NZ Biochar Industry Group to contribute to net zero while improving the national economy and managing biomass waste.

Library

Biochar for soil

Mitigation of arsenite toxicity in barley using iron-biochar nanocomposites and *Bacillus* sp.: impacts on soil immobilization, plant stress, and health risk

Improving Sustainable Vegetable Production with Biochar and Chitosan Xerogel Combination Under Water and Fertilizer Stress

Integrated microbiological and metabolomic analysis reveals the mechanisms by which biochar and wood vinegar enhance the cold tolerance of alfalfa

Biochar for Animal Health

Impact of dietary pomegranate peel biochar on performance and economics of Nile tilapia

Biochar for Water Filtration

Biochar from invasive weeds for enhanced removal of organic pollutants and pathogens from municipal wastewater

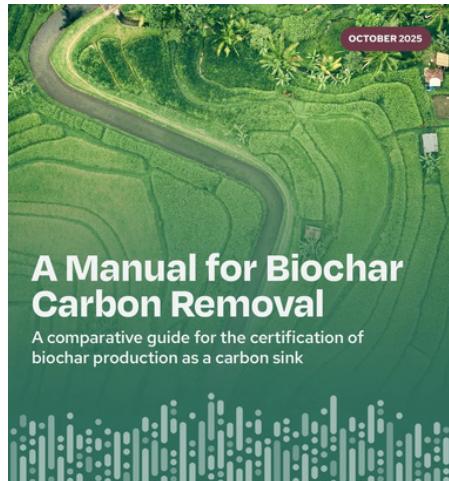
Biochar in Pyrolysis

A machine learning-assisted prediction of potential biochar yield subjected to the physicochemical properties of biomass

Member Benefits

Did you know? Members have access to a seven-year-old library full of reports and articles, past webinar and conference recordings plus a list of papers by category - learn more about ANZBIG memberships [HERE](#)

Biochar Industry News



IBI Updated Manual for Biochar Carbon Removal

The teams at International Biochar Initiative and [HAMERKOP](#) have been hard at work updating the guide with the latest information on the carbon removal market, standards and methodologies, and more since the first edition was released in 2024.

Some of the main 2025 updates include:

- A new and improved section covering MRV, permanence, and more
- Updated pricing information for each biochar certification standard and detailed step-by-step guides to help you choose the right methodology for your project
- An addition of the Isometric biochar methodology to the overall matrix

How an AI-powered waste system generates biochar carbon credits

Colorado-based recycling company AMP removes organics and recyclables from trash using AI-powered sorting technology. Rather than being sent to landfill, where it would release the potent greenhouse gas methane, the organic material is processed into biochar, a form of carbon that stays stable for hundreds of years. Following a successful pilot, AMP said last month it had signed on to provide waste-processing services to 1.2 million residents served by Southeastern Public Service Authority of Virginia.



To capitalise on the promise of biochar, producers must 'pitch like engineers' and 'think like bankers'

As this year's COP creaks towards its close, the climb towards achieving the Paris Agreement looks steeper than ever. Not only do new emissions look set to grow, but, with each passing year, the quantity of past emissions still in circulation are steadily growing.

The latest data indicates that the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmospheric is edging close to 425 parts per million (ppm), up from 399.4 ppm when the landmark Paris Agreement was signed in 2015.



Coffee biochar makes for lower-carbon, stronger concrete

Around the world, people produce over six million tons of coffee grounds, according to the International Coffee Organization. While some of those grounds make their way to compost, most end up in landfills.

Researchers in Australia have been finding ways to use coffee grounds to make concrete. And now, an in-depth analysis shows that concrete made with the organic waste is not only 30% stronger, it also reduces carbon dioxide emissions by 26%.



Biochar Carbon Credits in 2025: Stable Prices Amid Weakening Demand



In late 2025, the market for carbon credits based on biochar, a carbon removal method, is showing stable prices. However, behind the calm surface, many players say sentiment is weakening, which comes from fewer retirements, lower demand, and a tight supply.

A recent report by [S&P Global](#) found that in October 2025, U.S. biochar credits for delivery in 2025 stayed at around \$150 per tonne of CO₂e. Credits for next year's delivery were about \$148 per tonne. This is slightly lower due to less buying activity and hopes for more supply.

Better Cotton and Planboo to pilot biochar project on Indian cotton farms

The Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) and climate technology start-up Planboo have announced a new pilot project that will introduce biochar production on cotton farms in India, aiming to measure, monetise, and scale environmental improvements across the sector.

Beginning in February 2026, the project will work with at least 75 farmers to convert agricultural waste from the upcoming cotton harvest into biochar, a charcoal-like material that enhances soil health and can lock carbon in the ground for more than a century.



Industry Related News

Australia's Power Market: Growing Demand, Clean Energy Shift & Grid Evolution

The Australia power market is experiencing steady growth driven by rising electricity demand, expanding generation capacity and a significant shift toward renewable energy. According to the [Australia power market](#) delivered 277.10 TWh of electricity in 2024, and is forecast to reach 374.38 TWh by 2033, reflecting a CAGR of 3.10% over 2025–2033.

This increase reflects not only population growth and rising per-capita power consumption but also changes in how electricity is generated, distributed, consumed, and stored — as Australia navigates a complex transition away from fossil fuels toward sustainable energy sources and upgraded grid infrastructure.



Clean Energy begins injecting RNG into the pipeline at one of the country's largest RNG projects, South Fork Dairy

Clean Energy Fuels Corp. has announced it has successfully completed its renewable natural gas (RNG) facility located at South Fork Dairy in Dimmitt, Texas. The facility is now producing pipeline-quality RNG and has begun injecting into the interstate natural gas pipeline.

Now one of the largest RNG production plants in the country, South Fork is home to a herd of 16,000 dairy cows and has the capability to produce approximately 2.6 million gallons of low-carbon RNG annually.



2025 Annual Progress Report released

Australia has just seen its hottest ever year, with mean temperatures during the 12 months to June 2025 exceeding the previous record by more than 0.25 °C.

Globally, 2024 was also the hottest year on record and marked the first year with average temperatures topping 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels – the threshold agreed under the Paris Climate Agreement. These milestones underscore the urgent need to cut greenhouse gas emissions.



Melbourne launches new \$1.1bn renewable energy hub



Melbourne will be home to one of Australia's largest grid-scale BESS (battery energy storage systems) as part of a new renewable energy hub in the city's west.

Delivered by Equis Australia and government-owned SEC, the \$1.1 billion hub will be a cornerstone of Victoria's renewable energy infrastructure, with the 600MW BESS capable of powering 200,000 homes during evening peak demand.

The 'gateway' of the Amazon: Key takeaways from COP30

COP30 finished up in Brazil last week, bringing more than 56,000 delegates to Belém – described as the “gateway” to the Amazon River.

So what came from the event?

It was an occasion defined, as you would expect, by its collaboration, with 194 countries signing agreements at COP30. While Wood Mackenzie (WoodMac) said “rumours of the demise of tackling climate action have been greatly exaggerated”, with the US the only country to have largely abandoned its commitment to emissions reduction, the market analyst also said “material progress remained elusive” at COP30.



Australia's Carbon2Nature launches ACCU project



Carbon2Nature Australia, a subsidiary of Spanish utility Iberdrola's nature-based solutions company, has launched the Talia project to generate Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) under the Environmental Plantings (EP) method.

The project will be developed as a joint effort between Carbon2Nature and Land Life, an Amsterdam-based social enterprise. The first ACCUs are expected to be issued in 2027, Iberdrola Australia told Argus on 4 December.

Events

Biochar Industry Events

IBI Events 

<https://biochar-international.org/events/>

3 March 2026 - 4 March 2026

Global Biochar Commercialisation Summit

10-11 June 2026 - Vienna

Biochar Summit

Industry Related Events

8 - 13 February, 2026 - Western Australia
World Renewable Energy Congress XXV (WREC2026)

10-12 March 2026
2026 Renewable Fuels Summit

31 March - 2 April 2026 - Nashville, US
International Biomass Conference & Exp

June | 25-26 | 2026 - Scotland
7th International Conference on
Biofuels and Bioenergy

17 - 19 September 2026 - Italy
3rd Edition of Global Conference on Biofuels and Bioenergy

Partnerships



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